

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method, system and program product of block formatting a data storage medium in or to be added to an array of data storage media to a desired block format, the method comprising in one embodiment, writing initially only to any region of the data storage  
5 media that will be read during initialization of the array of data storage media; and setting a write size for writing steps to be performed after initialization to be greater than or equal to a read size.